

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/041,754

Examiner

Martin Lerner

Applicant(s)

FORAND, RICHARD A.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 31 March 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 to 28.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 19 December 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record does not disclose or suggest making a plurality of speech samples available to a user so that a speech sample most resembling a user's speech may be selected, and identifying an acoustic model associated with the selected speech sample for recognizing the user's speech. Generally, it is a known problem in the art of speech recognition to provide an acoustic model most similar to a user's speech. Typically, speech recognition systems must provide training for an acoustic model by requiring a user to repeat an extensive set of words and phrases, an enrollment process which is time consuming and difficult. Applicant's invention, however, simplifies training and enrollment by providing a plurality of pre-existing acoustic models and permitting a user to select one acoustic model most similar to his/her style of speech for speech recognition. (See Specification, Pages 1 and 2.)

Boss et al. discloses a speech encoder, where a user can select a voice font from a plurality of available voice fonts for the purpose of synthesizing speech signals with a desired speech output, e.g. in a voice of Arnold Schwarzenegger. (Column 10, Line 10 to Column 12, Line 5) Thus, *Boss et al.* discloses "making a plurality of speech samples available for listening" and "receiving the selection". However, *Boss et al.* omits making samples available "so that the speech sample most resembling the user's

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speech may be selected” and “identifying an acoustic model associated with the selected speech sample for recognizing the user’s speech.” *Kanevsky et al.* suggests a plurality of acoustic models are stored on a central server, and a user model for recognizing the user’s speech, corresponding to an acoustic model associated with a user, is selected once a user’s identity is verified. (Column 5, Line 64 to Column 6, Line 24) Thus, *Kanevsky et al.* suggests “identifying an acoustic model” “for recognizing the user’s speech.” However, the combination of *Boss et al.* and *Kanevsky et al.* does not suggest making a plurality of speech samples available for listening “so that a speech sample most resembling the user’s speech may be selected” for recognizing a user’s speech. Applicant’s invention has the advantage of providing a solution to a long-standing problem in speech recognition by reducing time consuming and difficult training and enrollment of user-specific acoustic models through a process that involves user selection of speech samples most resembling a user’s speech.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Martin Lerner whose telephone number is (571) 272-7608. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM Monday to Thursday.

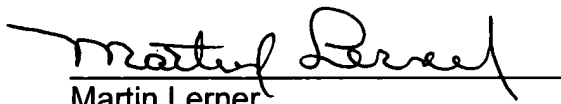
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Richemond Dorvil can be reached on (571) 272-7602. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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4/25/05


Martin Lerner
Examiner
Group Art Unit 2654